



# *The Blurb*



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club  
Public Service Since 1949*

Volume 74 Number 11

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

## **OKT-POTA!**

*Phil-Mont Experienced the Thrill of Ham Radio in the Great Outdoors at our Second Annual 2-day OKT-POTA-FEST!*





## The Radio Amateur's Code

*The Radio Amateur is:*

**CONSIDERATE...** They never knowingly operate in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL...** They offer loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in their country, through which Amateur Radio in their country is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE...** They keep their station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. Their operating practice is above reproach.

**FRIENDLY...** They operate slowly and patiently when requested; offer friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED...** Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC...** Their station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

*- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928*

# Get the Net!

There's no ham radio without YOU!

Get on the air and share! Operate, cooperate, & celebrate ham radio!

## Phil-Mont's Drive Time Net

*Join us every Monday-Friday 1700 to 1800 ET on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink*

## DENn-Digital Education Net for newbies

*Every Tuesday 2000-2130 on our VHF repeater with Zoom back channel for video only. Watch our Groups.io for posts tagged #DENn for details.*

## Tinker Net

*3rd Saturdays 0900-1030 ET in non-Radio-Labs Months on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink*

## Philadelphia ARES

*Sundays 8 PM ET on our VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink*  
**OMIK Net Sat. 11am**

## **CLUB REPEATERS**

VHF: 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL)

Bucks County and North PL 88.5 (147.030)

UHF: 444.80 MHz Yaesu System Fusion WiresX  
[ECHOLINK W3QV-R](#) &

[ALLSTAR 47970](#)

[EMAIL REPEATER COMMITTEE](#)

Phil-Mont Simplex Frequency  
147.510MHz pL91.5 TSQ

**CQ! CQ! CQ!**



**Calling CQ for New  
Net Control  
Operators!**

[Click Here and Sign Up To-day! It's a Fun Way to Meet Our Members!](#)

## Sunday Morning Nets

*Three Nets on three bands, all in a Row!*

*Tune in on any or all for a Sunday morning 'Hello!'*

**0930 ET:**

VHF Repeater, Allstar or Echolink

**1000 ET:**

75 meter Net (3.993 MHz LSB +/-QRM)

**1020 EDT:**

10 meter Net (28.393 MHz USB +/-QRM)

**November**

**Sunday Net  
Control Schedule**

**11/05/23 W3AFV**

**11/12/23 KB3SJS**

**11/19/23 W3UP**

**11/26/23 WA3GM**

# Club Business

## NEXT GENERAL CLUB MEETING:

**Wednesday, November 8th**  
**IN PERSON \*ONLY\***  
Giant Supermarket 315 York Rd.  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

**7PM Presentation - 6:30PM Start -  
5:30PM Yack & Snack)**

**This month's Prezo:**

**Old Timers Night**  
**Leadership Nominations**

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|        |               |        |
|--------|---------------|--------|
| N3PEG  | Peg Daly      | 14-Nov |
| WA3EGH | Gary Sheffy   | 19-Nov |
| N3GLH  | Brad Swanson  | 19-Nov |
| W3AOK  | Bill Popovic  | 22-Nov |
| KC6OEI | Phil Milazzo  | 24-Nov |
| NY3J   | Ron Wenig Sr  | 27-Nov |
| AA3WA  | Nick Sparozic | 30-Nov |
| KE3YW  | Bill Kullmann | 30-Nov |

*Want your Birthday read on the Net?*

*Update your info at*

*[hamclubonline.com](http://hamclubonline.com)*

## New Club Members

**N3KTM Jonathan Jenkins, General**

**N3QB Matthew Carango, Extra**

**KD3IAK Evan Bradley, Technician**

**KC3WCV Wayne Macdowell , Technician**



welcomes you!



# Phil-Mont Membership Statistics

## November 2023

### Member Types Statistics: (Active Members)

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| REGULAR Membership             | 162        |
| Honorary                       | 3          |
| Additional Family Member (EACH | 8          |
| Student Membership             | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>176</b> |

Philadelphia



ARES

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service are trained licensed amateur radio operators providing radio communications as a public service in disaster situations. All licensed operators are welcome to join. To get started fill out this [ARES Registration form](#) and [submit it to Cliff Hotchkiss](#) (KC3PGT), the Philadelphia Emergency Coordinator.

**Join the A.R.E.S.  
Training Net**

**Every Sunday  
evening at 2000 (8:00  
PM)**

**147.030 MHz**



# The faces of Okt-POTA Fest





# The faces of Okt-POTA Fest





# The Prez Sez...

Fellow Phil-Monters,

OKT – POTA – FEST !!!

Fort Washington State Park. You doers did a lot. PSK, FT8, SSB, DX, NY QSO Party, JOTA, Satellite, Girl Scouts/Daisies morse code/code oscillator intro (Thanks Jax, Bill and Greg), VHF, UHF, HF, antenna testing/experimentation, camping and our first fox hunt! Plus, we minted a new ham, Julia, with our VE session. Thanks to Charlie, K3NOP our field day captain, we acquired and activated the special event callsign K3J in honor of Jedi Jim. Mike, KC3UKC and Charlie, K3NOP made successful POTA activations using the special call. I can see Jim's smile. By my count, 18 successful activations and 509 QSOs. Great job!



## Activations

| Date       | Callsign                                                                                   | CW | Data | Phone | Total QSOs |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|-------|------------|
| 2023-10-22 |  KC3SMW   | 0  | 0    | 10    | 10         |
| 2023-10-22 |  AA3RC    | 0  | 0    | 56    | 56         |
| 2023-10-22 |  WA3GM    | 14 | 0    | 14    | 28         |
| 2023-10-22 |  KC3UKF | 0  | 0    | 34    | 34         |
| 2023-10-22 |  K3J    | 14 | 0    | 48    | 62         |
| 2023-10-22 |  N3JEC  | 0  | 0    | 26    | 26         |
| 2023-10-22 |  K3ALA  | 0  | 27   | 0     | 27         |
| 2023-10-22 |  N3QB   | 0  | 0    | 39    | 39         |
| 2023-10-21 |  AA3RC  | 0  | 0    | 5     | 5          |
| 2023-10-21 |  KC3SMW | 0  | 9    | 0     | 9          |
| 2023-10-21 |  KC3UKC | 0  | 12   | 2     | 14         |
| 2023-10-21 |  K3NOP  | 0  | 0    | 34    | 34         |
| 2023-10-21 |  K3J    | 0  | 12   | 36    | 48         |
| 2023-10-21 |  K3ALA  | 0  | 21   | 0     | 21         |
| 2023-10-21 |  N3LBP  | 0  | 40   | 0     | 40         |
| 2023-10-21 |  N3QB   | 0  | 0    | 11    | 11         |
| 2023-10-21 |  N3ZP   | 19 | 0    | 0     | 19         |
| 2023-10-21 |  WA3GM  | 26 | 0    | 0     | 26         |



# The Prez Sez...

What an amazing event, YOU did it! No less than 10 stations set up and operating on both days, more stations than field day. I wasn't counting, but there had to be nearly 30 folks who attended. Just a short rain shower and a little wind, but mostly pleasant days. Good times, good conversations, and great memories. Not bad for our second annual Okt-POTA fest. POTA-on....

Here's a link to all the full size Okt-POTA fest pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NT26GSC81sbSwXaX8>

Cliff, KC3PGT gave us a great ARES presentation at the October meeting. And how about the October SET? All the local ARES groups preparing to assist with communications in the event of an emergency. Philadelphia ARES, Chester County ARES/RACES, Montgomery County ARES, Bucks County ARES, Delaware County ARES, Southern New Jersey SNJ ARES, Eastern PA Section: EPA ARES. Look into getting involved in your area.

Thanks to Dave, K3DFG we will have a new feature this month, Member Spotlight, coined "Ham I Am" by Dave. Perfect. We want to learn about you. We're all more than our ham radio hobby, but we want to know what you do in amateur radio. We all have other hobbies, interests and experiences. It's easy to share, and inquiring minds want to know! I'm looking forward to learning about our 175+ members in the issues ahead.

NOVEMBER is OLD-TIMERS month. They are not old; they ARE LONG TIME HAMS. We will be celebrating Amateurs that have been licensed for 40 plus years. We are fortunate to have them guiding us.

We are in Election/Nomination season with ALL nominations closing at the November General Meeting.

This is the best hobby ever with unlimited possibilities. It is always there whether you play daily, weekly or monthly. We're all busy but have our club to keep us together through radio. So don't stress it and keep having fun playing radio. We play radio, that's what we do. Play, Break, Learn.

See you at the meeting.

Rich, AA3RC

**Remember, this is YOUR HOBBY, YOUR Club, YOUR repeaters. USE them. MONITOR them. BE A REPEATER GREETER. Answer calls when you can. Let's leave NO CALL UNANSWERED.**

**FAIL = First Attempt in Learning**



# "Ham I Am" - Member Spotlight

1. Name: Greg Cheng
2. QTH: Warminster, PA
3. Call: KC3SMW
4. First licensed: 2021
5. Years as a member of PMRC: 2 Years
6. Any positions or committees you've chaired: Board Member, VP, PMRC Radio Labs/TinkTech Net, DENN NCS
7. Highlights of your shack – radios, amps, tuners, gear etc.

I guess the highlight of my shack is my packet station (KC3SMW-7) and Winlink gateway (KC3SMW-10) on 145.610 and HF. I am running a Yaesu FTM-500 as my VHF/UHF base station and the Yaesu FT-710 for HF. My shack is also my office and work bench.



8. Antennas: Diamond x510 VHF/UHF Base Station. MFJ-1982MP, 132 Foot EndFed Wire, for HF Base Station. Diamond 200 Packet Station VHF, and PMRCRadio Labs Built 66 foot HF 40m band Packet Station End fed Wire.

9. Favorite band (radio not musical): 40m

10. Favorite operating mode:

For HF operating SSB voice is my favorite but I certainly also love the keyboard to keyboard HF digital modes like PSK, Thor, and get a kick out of Hellschreiber. Digital modes are fascinating to me and feel like there is an unexplored depth to them. As the digital modes innovate, and progress, there will never be an end to them.

11. How did you first get interested/started in amateur radio:

Cleaning out my attic I found my brother's tech license manuals and realized that I knew half of the test answers and started to consider getting my license. Then as my hobby in electronics and Arduino grew stagnant, I wanted to explore radio communications to add to my hobby and becoming a Ham was a natural extension to continue in my own hobby. Little did I realize, at the time, the depth of Ham radio and all you can do. Glad I found those manuals!!!

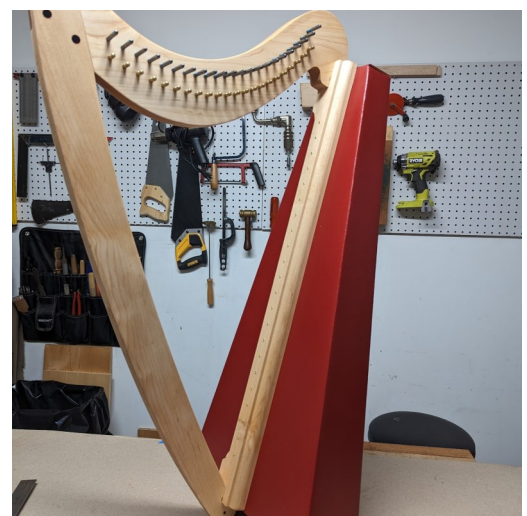
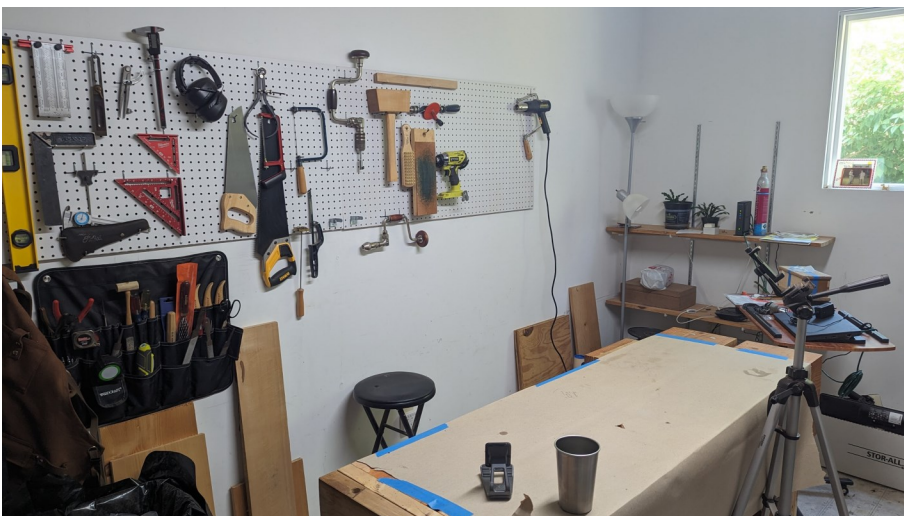


# "Ham I Am" - Member Spotlight

## 12. Interesting facts about you:

I have always been a musician, trumpet performer. I went to school and started off as a music education major and switched to a Performance major halfway through. When I switched to performance I also picked up a second major in Computer Science in C++ programming. Teaching has always been something I love doing but school teaching didn't interest me. While in college I discovered the world of Piano technology. This grew into a passion and career for the last 25 years. As a piano technician with both a musical and technology background I became an expert on modern player piano diagnostic and repair. Today I am the co-owner of Allied Piano & Finish LLC, where we service, maintain, and rebuild pianos, sell to trade piano climate control systems and furniture repair products. To satisfy my teaching itch I teach piano technology as adjunct faculty at the Community College of Philadelphia, attend conferences around the country, guest teach at North Bennett Street School in Boston a few times a year and a few sessions a year here at Allied Piano.

Hand tool wood working is one of my favorite hobbies outside of Ham Radio. This hobby was born out of the desire to be a better piano tech. As I practice more and more intricate repairs for piano and how to make sure I got the job done correctly I realized I am collecting tools for wood working. Not having space for giant stationary power tools, I decided to go the old fashion hand tool way. Then I started making pens, jewelry boxes, and other trinkets and found the calming nature of being alone in my wood shop. I eventually moved to furniture and other "bigger" projects. I even made a harp last year. Again, another hobby whose depths will never be fully explored.





# "Ham I Am" - Member Spotlight

13. What do you like most about PMRC:

If it wasn't for PMRC I don't know what I'd be doing in/for/with ham radio. This club allowed me to experiment and explore so many aspects of ham radio that I had interest in but no one to play with. I love the fact that PMRC promotes and supports new hams with PLOTA station at every test session. If it wasn't for Rich, AA3RC, hearing me on the repeater, telling me about the drive time net and PLOTA, I wouldn't have even known about PMRC. Then meeting Jim, AJ3DI (SK), and his support for my desires for playing with SSTV. PMRC pushed me to do the SSTV sked which then became the DENn with the help of Ron, NY3J. Other clubs in the area told me "no" for any of the things I wanted to try or do. PMRC never said no they always said, "do it, run with it, announce it and go". If it wasn't for this club enabling and supporting its members, I would not love this hobby, learned as much, or discovered the depths of this hobby.

14. Anything else you want to share:

A few things. In my world the phrase "I can't" doesn't exist. I just do things. I may not do them properly. I may not initially understand the full depths of how it works. It may not always work on my first, second or tenth try. For every success there is always failure along the way. Nothing wrong with failing as long as you are doing. This is for all aspect of everything, ham radio is no different. My first set of wood working dovetail joints were terrible. They failed. It didn't stop me from doing it again and again until I knew how to practice, setup, and do them. The first time I wired a sensor on my electronics bench and "let the magic smoke out" and fried my circuit, it of course failed. I just did it again with a new sensor and learned from failing.

**Learn how to DO and you can do anything. Encourage others to do the same.**





# Upcoming Club Events

## **Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Presents:**

### **PMRC POTA-MANIA 2024**

Join us for an exciting series of park radio events from April to October, showcasing the beauty of Fort Washington State Park and the joy of amateur radio!

#### **Event Schedule: Mark your calendar!**

April 13: 8:00 AM onwards— Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

May 11: 8:00 AM onwards— Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

June 22-23: FIELD DAY - Location: Fort Washington State Park Campsites A—C

July 13: 8:00 AM onwards— Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

August: International Light House Weekend (Details to come)

September 14: 8:00 AM onwards—Location: Fort Washington State Park Pavilion MHL-1

October 19-20: OKTPOTA FEST—Location: Fort Washington State Park Campsite B

#### **Activities:**

Picnic in the Park with Radio: Bring food, enjoy a picnic, and share radio enthusiasm with fellow hams. Test your equipment, see how others do POTA, try a new setup, HAVE FUN.

Park Activation: Activate the park individually or join forces with the club to showcase your radio skills and equipment.

Foxhunt: Challenge your foxhunting skills and have a blast locating a hidden transmitter within the park.

Anything ham radio goes, the limit is only your imagination.

#### **Experience the Magic:**

POTA-MANIA 2024 is a celebration of amateur radio and the great outdoors. Whether you're an experienced operator or completely new to POTA or ham radio, all are welcome! Come and see what it's all about, get on the air, and most importantly, have fun!

Don't miss out on the chance to combine radio fun with a beautiful natural setting. Let's make each event memorable and a source of camaraderie among radio lovers.

**Note: Fort Washington is a carry-in / carry-out park. Please be sure to police your trash and take it with you.**

# Upcoming Club Events



## DECEMBER PMRC-RADIO LABS

### Let's Get Digital!

December 16th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Giant Community Center in Willow Grove  
315 York Rd  
Willow Grove, PA 19090



Join us for a hands-on learning experience focusing on digital modes for both portable and base stations. We'll be showcasing SSTV, FLDigi, and Packet Winlink. These exciting modes can be easily accessed using a simple dongle called the DigiRig, along with the appropriate cables for your radio or HT.

DigiRig is an open-source integrated digital modes interface for amateur radio. It requires only a single USB connection to the computer, providing a USB soundcard and PTT controller in a compact enclosure.

The DigiRig's low cost, versatility, and open-source nature make it ideal for Parks on the Air (POTA), emergency communications (EMCOMM) with mobile and HT devices, as well as base station usage such as the Digital Emergency Networking Node (DENN) on VHF, packet, VARA, Winlink, and with older HF radios lacking built-in sound cards.

#### What You'll Need:

- Laptop (and power)
  - Software for:
    - SSTV
    - FLDigi
- Packet and Winlink:
- Radio (HT, or if you prefer, a mobile radio with battery and antenna)
- DigiRig with cables to connect your radio and computer
- 



While the main focus will be on the DigiRig, feel free to bring your preferred soundcard/PTT controller, such as Signalink, DRA, etc.

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

If you'd like to assist with this lab, please reach out. We'd greatly appreciate your help!

#### Want to do/see a certain type of Lab?

Share your lab ideas, contact us directly at [KC3SMW@KC3SMW.NET](mailto:KC3SMW@KC3SMW.NET) or on the groupslo

*For more details please see the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Clubs Groups IO*



# Upcoming Club Events

Won't You Join Us...

## in *The DENn!*

Phil-Mont's *Digital Education Net for newbies!*

**Tuesday Evenings @8:00pm**

W3QV Repeater: 147.030 MHz + 91.5

Allstar Node: 47970 Echolink: W3QV-R

*Don't let the name fool you!*

All are welcomed to join us and play. It doesn't matter if you are new to Ham Radio, new to digital modes, or are an already experienced ham and digital operator.

**We are here to play, learn, and test our equipment.**

With the digital modes if you can do it on the repeater you can do it pretty much everywhere, *including HF.*

*So come on out, test your setup, and **HAVE SOME FUN!***

**NET CONTROLS** KC3SMW, Greg—NY3J, Ron—W3ZO, Rob

# Last Month Activities

## Philmont at the MS150 City to Shore September 30 - October 1

PMRC members were once again an integral part of the MS150 serving in roles including setup, especially APRS configuration and installation; Sag Wagon driver and communicator; bicyclist safety person at intersections and others. Those participating are listed below. Their volunteer efforts not only benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society but also benefit all of us by adding to PMRC's reputation for public service volunteerism.

|              |              |             |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| AA3RC Rich   | KC3WHU Walt  | W2PDN Chris |
| K3CL Charlie | KM4WSK Erin  | W3AOK Bill  |
| K3DFG Dave   | N3PEG Peg    | WA3QVU Mark |
| K3FZT Steve  | N3VIP Tony   | WB3JAC John |
| KC3UFO Jax   | N3ZP Phil    |             |
| KC3UKF Drew  | NS9G Stephen |             |



*The Blurb*

# N3ZP's Contest Corner

Here are some of the contests coming up in November. This is the start of the big contest season. Lots of chances to get your Worked All States Award, try some new modes and pickup some new countries:

## ARRL Sweepstakes CW

2100Z Nov. 4 - 0300Z Nov. 12 - One of the biggest ARRL Contests. Famous for the longest and most complicated exchange in contesting. Lots of categories to run in. Lots of CW activity if you want some code practice. Not for the faint of heart. Eligible for club participation.

## North American SSB Sprint

0000Z Nov. 12 - 0400Z Nov. 12 - 80, 40 and 20 Meters - Worldwide stations try to work North American stations - Rules: <http://ssbsprint.com/rules/>. Quick contest to pick up some new DX.

## 10 - 10 International Fall Contest - Digital

0100Z Nov. 11 - 2359Z Nov. 12 - 10 Meters only, Digital Modes, BPSK and RTTY Worldwide -- Rules: <http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>. Collect 10-10 Numbers to join 10 - 10 and promote activity on 10 Meters. Try out modes you have used on the Phil-Mont Tuesday night DENN,

## WAE (Worked All Europe) Contest RTTY

0000Z Nov. 11 - 2359Z Nov. 12 - 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters - Worldwide - Rules: <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/>. Even if you don't enter it's a good chance to learn how to tune in RTTY signals with FLDIGI or MMTTY.

## ARRL Sweepstakes Contest SSB

2100Z Nov. 18 - 0300Z Nov. 20 - 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. US and Canada only. Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>. Just like the CW version but SSB. Lots of SSB action. This will dominate the bands. Eligible for club participation.

## CW Worldwide DX Contest CW

0000Z Nov. 25 to 2400Z Nov. 26 - 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters - Worldwide. Work anybody anywhere. Rules: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>. Lots of entry categories. Simple exchange, 599 and CQ 2 digit zone. Can get pretty intense with many ops running high speed CW. Good chance for code practice or try a code reader. Eligible for club participation.

These are some of the biggest contests of the year. Try to make a few contacts!

**Contact Phil N3ZP on [groups.io](#) for contesting and contest logging information. Use the hashtag [#contest](#)**



# From the PMRC Archive...

Here are some highlights from this month in  
Blurb history, November 1963...



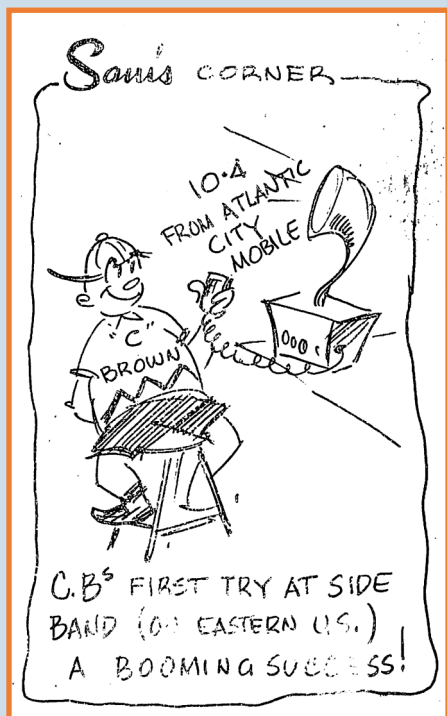
## THE PREZ SEZ

I wish to express my appreciation to the Phil-Mont members who are participating in the W3TKQ code practice sessions. This activity is in the hands of a very capable group and is being received and appreciated by a large group of eager students.

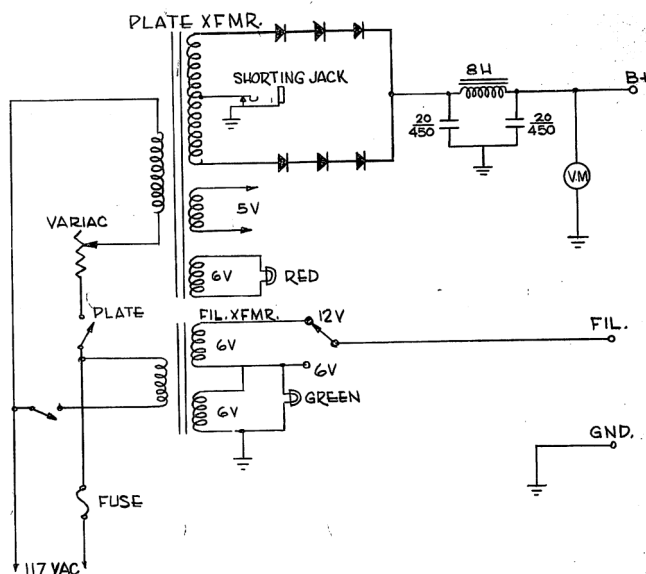
Our thanks to UMK, YJM, WNC and the others who checked in with them to make it possible for Phil-Mont to take part in the Montgomery County simulated emergency test.

This month Phil-Mont will have its largest single activity in which every member can join with his family and friends. Your Banquet Committee is putting forth an all out effort to make this year's Dinner-Dance the best yet. Let us support their efforts by all enjoying the good food, good music and excellent conversation you will have with your friends at Phil-Mont's Dinner-Dance.

de W3GOW



## PHILMONT TEK-NI-GRAM NOVEMBER 1963 VARIABLE POWER SUPPLY CONTRIBUTED BY K3KUD



# The Last Page



*The Blur**b*** wants to hear from **YOU!**

Got a hot lead on antenna design? Soldering up a special circuit? Digging some new DSP? Reminiscing about some retro receivers? Maybe you have some goodies for sale?

***Click the big blue envelope***

## ***PMRC Officers for 2023***

### **EMAIL THE BOARD**

#### **Officers**

**President:** AA3RC Rich

**V. President:** KC3SMW Greg

**Treasurer:** Jim NS3K

**Secretary:** Dave K3DFG

#### **Board of Directors**

KC3GJX Jeff (23)

K3RON Ron (23)

N3QV Eric (23)

W3AOK Bill (A)

KC3SSG Dil (24)

N3PEG Peg (24)

N3ZP Phil (24)

## **Blurb Editors:**

**Daniel Wagaman - W4GMN, Editor Emeritus**

**Steve Davidson—K3FZT**

**Jim McCusker—K3YO**

**Richard Roth—AA3RC**



***Club Email List***